

Parent Council Chairman's Report Nov 18

My sincerest apologies for not being present today. Ironically it is probably one of the most exciting days to be involved with Dunvegan Primary School with the Highland Council presenting their plans for our new school.

Having seen the plans and the phases for delivering our new school I believe they represent a hugely exciting opportunity for the future of our children and wider area of Dunvegan. Hopefully they are fully endorsed by the community and we can finally look forward to getting spades in the ground as soon as possible.

Acknowledgement and thanks must go to the Highland Council for listening to the feedback at our last public meeting, it seems a fantastic new school could be delivered on the current school site which offers so much and is demonstrably our preferred location. Confirmation of the commitment to begin could be provided as early as Easter 2019 and seeing the proposals formalised would be a wonderful way to bring my involvement with the Dunvegan parent council to an end.

Having served on the parent council for many years today I am stepping down as Chair. This will allow an easy hand over to the next parent to take on the role and I will still be involved as a member until June. Sadder still is that my daughter's time with Dunvegan Primary comes to an end and I am sure Daisy, like me, will remember all our time her time here with much fondness.

It has been a real pleasure to represent the views of the parents, children and school over these past years and I am delighted to have been part of a group which have achieved so much. When I started out the parents involved agreed to a 3 year plan and I am delighted that everything in that plan has been delivered and more. We even managed to provide a trophy cabinet this year, something which I had been tasked with sourcing for a long time before I became Chair!

It would have been impossible to deliver anything for the school and children without the huge amount of support from all the parent council members, staff, children, parents and all those associated with Dunvegan Primary School. I have been blown away by the support and what our children have achieved many times.

A big part of our support has come from the local windfarm trust who I hope will continue to support the school as their investment in our projects, children and school is a true long term investment into the future of the area.

This year the parent council has continued to deliver a considerable amount.

1. Paid and delivered blocks of Drama Art and Music Workshops.
2. Completed the recently launched website
3. Paid a contribution to the school trips
4. Facilitated further IT classes though external resources.
5. Supported the school through the contribution to kids discos and the School Christmas Concert.
6. Purchased outdoor learning equipment

Our new Head Mistress Vicki Parfitt and her fantastic staff continue to demonstrate they are a fantastic asset for our school. Their passion for outdoor learning and community involvement is key to the future and is a real bonus to our children's education. I really believe Dunvegan Primary can

be one of the best primary schools in Scotland given the amazing location, access to natural assets and brilliant staff.

There is such a wealth of talent and skills on our doorstep and we should continue to encourage their involvement with our children. We continue to generate exciting ideas like the poly tunnel and composter project which could add to our educational and outdoor resources. In the future I hope that the Parent Council develops even closer interaction with the children (Pupil Council and Eco Committee) and community groups in the area. We hope the new website and class blogs will act as resource to help with this communication, along with our active social media and continued work in the community.

Good communication continues to be key in helping support our new school proposals. It is important that any proposal delivers the maximum possible benefit and there is a real opportunity to deliver much more than just an educational building.

The development should be an asset for the surrounding area and every opportunity should be taken to assess if it can deliver additional sustainable benefits, like improved sporting facilities and affordable housing options. These could play a real significant role in ensuring any new school project maximises the benefit it can bring to the area and ensure a sustainable and increasing school role long in to the future.

Thanks again for all the support it has been a real pleasure!